

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF SB 425

Michael Mullaney

My name is Michael Mullaney, I have been a resident of East Hartford for 48 years and co-chair of the East Hartford Community Health Care Center Legislative Advocacy Team with Caring Families Coalition. I am here to testify on behalf of my brother Gary Mullaney. We are asking you to support SB 425.

I am Gary's caretaker. Gary is a disable Vietnam Veteran who is a victim of Agent Orange. He suffers from seizures, he has a heart condition and has had three strokes since December 25. Gary is currently on Medicaid Spend Down.

When Gary is on a spend down we have to send him to the emergency room via the ambulance, this in effect spends more money than if he were to receive his prescriptions, and we are usually able to meet the spend down because the hospital bill is usually between seven and nine thousand dollars. With limited income (I am currently unemployed) there is very little left to spend on medical care and on our regular monthly bills that seem to have rocketed in Connecticut.

I understand that we are all trying to be mindful of the budget and the expenses. I recall our governor expressing the "shared sacrifice" concept, but some of us can't sacrifice anything. In fact, we are the sacrificed.

There's this perception that the group of people who need this are folks who are lazy or freeloaders. That could not be further from the truth. We are residents of this state who are unemployed, disabled, working a job that only gives us 35 hours a week so that the company doesn't have to provide insurance and a myriad of others who cannot afford to be the sacrificed.

The State Basic Health Program will ease some of the stressors my brother and I and countless others live with on a daily basis. The federal government is providing subsidies for the people. Let the people have it.

I am asking you to support SB 425. Thank you for your time.